Remarks

This paper is responsive to a non-final Office action mailed March 23, 2005.

The action makes no comment about the specification or drawings. Applicants' attorney assumes that both are acceptable in their present form.

The action contains rejections of all 24 claims in the application. For reasons set forth below, the rejections are improper and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, the action rejects claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the teachings of U.S. patent 5,938,722- Johnson (hereafter *Johnson*).

The rejected claims have been amended to make it clear that the present invention requires a host information repository be maintained on one host in a system including two or more host systems. The repository includes information about products installed on two or more of the hosts in the systems, including information about how those products are configured.

Johnson does not teach a system having a repository for holding information detailing products installed on each of a plurality of hosts in a system. It follows that *Johnson* does not teach a repository for holding information about how those installed products are configured. *Johnson*, instead, teaches a Qaulfile that contains only performance information, such as CPU utilization, number of threads, memory size, etc. See col. 6, lines 21 - 48. *Johnson* clearly does not anticipate the invention defined by the claims of this application, as amended.

Moreover, the present invention is not obvious in view of *Johnson*. The *Johnson* system assumes that programs are capable of running on any machine. For example, see col. 3, lines 13-

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16, which say that the only requirement of a host is that it accepts programs and has the right performance characteristics. Also, see col. 7, lines 39-46, which say that a program must use network qualified arguments, which also means that the program is capable of running on any machine. Hence, there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to consider the other products a program may require to run. The present invention solves that problem, and the program requirements can specify, for example, a database name.

Since *Johnson* neither discloses nor suggests a host information repository for storing information about programs installed on multiple hosts in a network, the rejection of claims 1-7, 9-15 and 17-24 is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 16 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over *Johnson* in view of U.S. Patent 6,360,268 - Silva et al (*Silva*). *Silva* is cited specifically as showing the use of a program in testing a product installed on one or more of a plurality of data processing hosts.
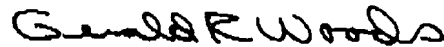
There is no question that *Silva* teaches a distributed automated testing system. What *Silva* fails to teach, however, is the maintenance of a host information repository on one host in a multi-host sytem where the repository includes details about products installed on other hosts in the system, including how those installed products are configured. Therefore, even if the teachings of *Johnson* were modified in accordance with the teachings of *Silva*, the end result would still not be the system defined by the present claims of the subject application.

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The rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is therefore improper and should be withdrawn.

Respectfully Submitted,

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